

In the Election of Species Requirement, the Examiner stated that the application contains claims directed to the following species of the generic invention which lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

1. first embodiment described at pages 6-8 (Figs. 3-6) of the specification;
 2. second embodiment described at pages 8-10 (Fig. 6) of the specification;
 3. third embodiment described at pages 10-11 (Figs. 7-10) of the specification;
- and
4. fourth embodiment described at pages 11-14 (Figs. 11-13) of the specification.

The Examiner required the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently claim 1 is generic. Upon the allowance of one or more of the generic claims, the applicant will be entitled to consideration of additional species in claims that depend from those allowable generic claims. The Applicant is also required to identify the claims that read on that elected species.

Applicants note that the Examiner appears to have made an error in categorizing his species in that Figure 6 appears in the definition of both the first and the second embodiments. Applicants assume that the first embodiment referring to "Figures 3-6" was meant to refer to "Figures 3-5" and proceed under this assumption.

Applicants elect to prosecute Group I drawn to the first embodiment (Figures 3-5).

Applicants state that claims 1-6, 24-25 and 29 read on the elected first embodiment.

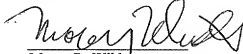
Claims 7-23 and 26-28 are withdrawn at this time. Applicants reserve all rights in these withdrawn claims to reintroduce these claims at a later date or to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications based upon these claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments as to this response, the undersigned may be contacted at the address and telephone number below.

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No fees are due with this response. However, if any such fees are due, please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Morey B. Wildes', written over a horizontal line.

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